



TASK FORCE FALCON



Falcon Flier

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What's Inside...



Toy Story...

SSB brings tidings of comfort and joy to daycare center.
Pg. 5



Grand Opening...
Camp Magrath holds dedication ceremony.
Pgs. 6



Snap shots...

Check out soldiers in action in the best of Combat Camera.
Pgs. 8-9



Hoops...

Americans play international ball.
Pg. 16



Spc. Molly Jones/photo

Soldiers of 1st Plt., B Co., 27th Combat Engineers participate in a live fire exercise at Ramjan Range. The December exercise consisted of movement under direct fire, some breaching with bangalore torpedoes, blowing up of wire and finally a medevac operation.

B Co., 27th Combat Engineers brave weather during medevac exercises

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

RAMNJANE RANGE, Kosovo—As a light snow falls to the ground at this training gamut located near Camp Bondsteel, a medevac helicopter rises over a nearby hill to assist in a medical dustoff. The training is part of a live fire exercise that B Co., 27th Combat Engineers conducted during the month of December.

The medvac missions were only one of the several exercises performed by the Fort Bragg (North Carolina) element in the freezing weather. The training consisted of five, 13-hour days (Dec. 8-12) and included night fire missions.

"The exercise will consist of tactical movement, with some breaching using bangalore torpedoes, and blowing up the wire. This is a real live fire exercise," said Sgt. Michael J. Eaglin, B Co., 27th Engineers.

"We're using live rounds, sending soldiers in to breach, and boom! Blowing things up, that's part of our job as combat engineers," said Eaglin.

The training the company was going through is identical to what they would do at home.

"The only difference is that we're away from our families and

it is freezing cold here," said Eaglin. "Other than that, this is exactly what we work on at home station.

"One thing that's going to be really cool for the guys today, is that they might be able to go on a helicopter ride. During the medvac procedures throughout the breaching drill, we're going to have one of the soldiers die or be injured, and we'll have an aid and litter team to police him up, do first aid, call a nine-line medevac, and they will be air lifted out to the local hospital. In actuality, they won't leave the area, but they will get to go for a ride over the range which should be pretty fun for them," said Eaglin.

Eaglin explained that, "there is extreme importance in keeping the soldiers trained for other missions in the world while we're on a peacetime mission, trying to keep their skills up to par so they won't lose them during peacetime missions.

That's why exercises like what we've been working on the past few days are so crucial. With the situation that our country is involved with elsewhere, we need to stay prepared, because we never know when our country could call us to complete another mission."

Fort Bragg officer, soldiers work to make roadways safer in Kosovo

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

PIDIC/ PIDIQ, Kosovo—Upon leaving the live-fire exercise early, 1st Lt. Frank Tedeschi led the convoy for a bridge reconnaissance mission past Zegra, winding up the mountainous roads toward Delta-12 observation post near the Macedonian border. The convoy was in search of a very small bridge the engineers are planning on repairing in the near future.

"This bridge project is a minor project, but we're going to be adding curbs to the existing bridge. It's not going to be a major thing, however, it's the little things like this we are doing every day to help the people of Kosovo. So, bit by bit, little by little, we are improving their quality of life," explained Tedeschi, B Co., 27th Combat Engineers.

"As we experienced while we were measuring the bridge, a lady drove by and

was very grateful for any help we can give. They can just slide into the streambed. Having safe roads are things we take for granted at home," said Tedeschi.

The small bridge construction is the first bridge project, since in country, that the engineers have worked on. Another project, is to put boulders and safety signs around, and then actually build a forty-foot span to help the four to five families that live in the immediate area, according to Tedeschi.

"Our next big project is another bridge, but on a much larger scale. That is a project we're going to be doing next month. All we're doing here is putting some curbs on."

Although it seems like a small project for the engineers, the families in the surrounding area will greatly benefit from the effort the engineers have put forth, said Tedeschi.

TFF Commanding General

Don't let "Sin Novedad" be your final answer



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

Sin Novedad. This saying translated from Spanish means "Without Results." This may be a new way to say it, however it is not new to any of you. I would like to discuss this concept of Sin Novedad and give you my perspective on this.

I was a field advisor in El Salvador, 1987-1988. The AO that I was responsible for

covered one/fifth of El Salvador. During their war, I recall being briefed on the number of patrols (day night, reconnaissance, surveillance, or ambush) that they had completed weekly. At the end I would hear them say, "We completed over 1,237 patrols this past week," and after that they would state "Sin Novedad (without results)." I recalled thinking to myself, "how in the world could you do that many patrols, (at the time we referred to the concept as saturation patrolling), without having any results, not finding any bad guys, not having a successful ambush, without uncovering any logistical bases, or not being able to gather any information from the local population? How could you possibly do that?"

It wasn't until I accompanied them on several different types of patrols that I was able to observe the techniques and tactics that they were using, or perhaps more appropriately the lack of techniques and tactics that were being utilized.

It was clear why they were not producing any

results. I found myself having to teach the soldiers, and train the leadership. This is what I would like to talk to everyone in the TF about.

When you finish every patrol, the question needs to be asked, as you prepare to do the debriefing with the patrol members to your leadership:

WHAT TYPE OF PATROL WAS IT?
WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PATROL?
WHAT DID I LEARN ON THIS PATROL?
WHAT TASK WAS I REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH?
DID I ACCOMPLISH THAT TASK?
WHAT DID I LEARN?

While you were on patrol did you increase and improve your situational awareness for you and your unit? Evaluating the effectiveness of our patrol by using our five senses, what information intelligence did we gather, and how did we modify our patrol if necessary?

This is really the challenge that TFF is facing in everything we do here, and perhaps in everything that we do while serving our nation. That is to teach people a thought process to complex problems and solving such problems, to teach individuals how to think, not what to think.

So when you're given a mission, you mentally break it down into task condition and purpose to a specific set of standards, whether it's Private Huber, Sergeant Huber, First Lieutenant, Captain, or Lt. Col. Huber, everyone needs to look at this problem and say, "Why am I doing this? What purpose is there in doing this?" Then do an assessment of how we do it, and whether or not we're being effective.

So whatever the task is, whatever is the situation that we face, we've got to go through this

mental thought process. It will not be good enough to simply be trained in a specific task, such as how to conduct a patrol, and not realize that the conditions are going to change. You need to assess what you're doing and then adjust to it, adapt it so that you don't have the result of Sin Novedad "Without results."

Everyone in a leadership position must do this to ensure that we don't waste the soldier's time. So that soldiers just don't go out there and walk around, that we are actually effective in what we're trying to accomplish.

That soldier in the guard tower, or that soldier at the entry point, needs to go through this thought process anytime an event occurs. "What is the issue here? Why is it occurring? What is the friction point? What should I do differently?" As the soldier makes these adjustments, he will be able to share these with his leadership and his fellow soldiers, so that everyone can gain from this experience.

This is our challenge: To teach each other and our fellow soldiers, at all levels from different fox-hole perspectives, how to solve complex problems. Every soldier in this task force knows their job and how to do battle drills. It is drilled into them. It is instinctive. The soldier's instincts and training will help them in those stressful situations. What we as leaders and NCOs must do is take the responsibility to teach people how to think.

Whether you are a commander, staff officer, noncommissioned officer, clerk typist, or a soldier out on patrol, let's not go through life as a spectator. Let's not go through a single day here, in Kosovo, and not conclude your day, until you have mentally gone over in your mind what you have accomplished during the day. That you do not submit, your daily patrolling report, with the words "Sin Novedad."

Climb To Glory ... To the Top

TFF Command Sergeant Major

Make things happen for you during this deployment



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

I enjoy making things happen, and at one time I thought that all I had to do was wish it and whoop there it was. It did not take long for me to realize that things just don't happen; there is a reason why things are the way they are. I ran across a quote that said, "People don't plan to fail; they fail to plan." Let it not be you who failed

to plan. As I travel around, I'm finding that soldiers don't have tangible goals. Here are a few areas to focus on:

Have a measurable goal for physical fitness, military, academic, financial and cultural development. Share your goals with your battle buddy, and your leader, so that he or she can coach and mentor you toward success. At the end of your six months you can assess if you planned, or failed to plan. Goals give a sense of focus and direction. I believe people with specific goals generate a strong sense of purpose, mission and desire.

When I see you in the field, I want you to tell me about your plan. How many points you want to improve on the APFT, and how you are going to get there.

For military improvement, you should be

able to tell me when and what you are doing to get promoted, or how you are going to compete for individual achievements: Soldier/NCO of the month or quarter boards. Your goals have to be something clearly measurable.

Educational goals can be measured by improvement of GT scores, taking and passing a college course. The opportunities are ample, so take advantage of them.

How much money do you want to save while you are here? Just wanting to save money is not tangible, any road will lead you somewhere if you don't know where you want to go.

Also while you are here, learn some of the local language, experience Kosovo when allowed and use all of your available resources. Leave here better than when you came, and in the end shout "Climb to Glory... To the Top."

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Soldier on the Street

What is your favorite memory involving your brother or sister?



Sgt. 1st Class John Bennett,
Platoon Sgt.
A Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Reg.
(Camp Magrath)

"Christmas time. There were nine of us sitting around the Christmas tree trying to open up all the gifts, figuring who got what."



Spc. Peter Kingshott,
RTO
A Co., 1st Bn., 32 Inf. Reg.
(Camp Magrath)

"My sister was in college, and I was younger, I was in middle school. She took me to college with her, and showed me around. I stayed with her for the weekend. It was a good time."



Spc. Cassandra O Neal,
Medic
209th MP Co. (CBS)

"My older brother, when he taught me to ride my bike. He would run beside my bike, and I always thought he was holding on, but sometimes he wasn't when he said he was. That was how I learned to ride my bike."



Pfc. Adam Stoner,
Driver
C Co., 1st Bn., 32 Inf. Reg.
(Camp Magrath)

"My four brothers and I were always roughhousing and getting in trouble for it."



Sgt. Beth Elfrink,
Team Leader
2175th MP Co. (CBS)

"When we were younger, my younger brother and I used to go ice skating and play hockey together. I played high school hockey, and now my brother plays for the same team."



Spc. Peter Ducos,
Driver
G-3 (CBS)

"My brother, before he went to sleep, he had to pull off his socks, and then he had to pull the lint from between each of his toes."

Commentary

O brother, where art thou?

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

I was too young to remember it, but the way my mom tells it, she heard a loud crash, and ran in the room to see an overturned chair, and my two-and-a-half-year-old brother, Jeff, in the crib with me. He had a new playmate and he wasn't going to wait for me to learn how to get out of the crib. We were pals from the start.

A lot of times boys are resentful of having a younger brother to look after. Not mine. I was included in most of the adventures my brother got into. Playing in the woods, building the fort and riding bikes were things that we did together. And when I got scared at night, it was my brother who always let me sleep in his room. When I was in first grade, and had a crush on a girl, but not the fortitude to let her know, it was my brother who stuck the baseball cards in the envelope, and wrote on it 'from your secret admirer.' It was my brother who would slam me into the ground in our one-on-one football games, and then helped me up and told me what a good player I was. It was my brother who always let me win just enough in basketball against him, to keep me playing.

Oh sure, we had our competitive ways. I still remember beating Jeff at a video game. The next night he practiced non-stop for many hours, until he could beat me. And we also had our petty arguments, but if someone picked on me, it was he who had my back.

As my brother and I faced adolescence, we pursued different interests. My brother became skilled with computers, and I became a mean soccer player. But despite doing different things, we were still tight.

When I was a freshman in high school, my brother was a senior. If there ever was a chance for my brother to ignore me, this was it. Come on, who wants a geeky, freshman brother following him around. Jeff did.

I remember how excited I would be when he would come home on breaks from college. I remember him bringing home new music for me to listen to, and us staying up late talking about girls and whatever else was going on in our heads. That summer, when Jeff came home for three months, it was he who helped me get my first real part-time job, working alongside him in a fast-food kitchen. The reigning 'employee of the month' showed me the ropes, and we shared the stench of grease on our clothes.

As we grew older, our paths went different ways. I went to college at Auburn University, and my brother, by then a Florida State graduate, went on to law school at Vanderbilt University. I joined the National Guard full-time, married and started a family in my hometown. My brother became a lawyer in the Air Force, and moved far away. We kept in touch, but the times we did became fewer and farther between. That's one reason why I was genuinely touched when Jeff asked me to be his best man when he got married.

I don't know why we don't talk that much anymore. There was no big fight. There were no harsh words spoken. It's kind of like how if you put a frog in boiling water, he'll jump out, but if you put him in cold water and gradually raise the temperature, he'll boil to death. My brother would come back home to visit when he could, but I don't think I could make him understand that it was easy for our schedules to clash. Someone with a wife and two children can't always pick up and visit, or sometimes not for as long as we would like. And I have to admit that my feelings were hurt, when my brother didn't seem as interested in my children as I would have liked him to be. Maybe these are the reasons why we grew apart. I don't know.

I do know that recent events, and a trip to Kosovo have made me think about deeper things. And I know that if something were to happen to either one of us, these are not the terms that I would want things to end on. But here I am telling all of you, many whom I've never met, about this, instead of the one person who should hear it. Maybe I'll get the guts to tell my brother how I feel. Maybe he'll read this column one day. Maybe we'll be as close as we once were. I sure hope so. I miss you brother.

10th Mountain soldier's promotion tied to father's past



Spc. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Pfc. Reginald King, fire support specialist, 10th (Mountain) Division Artillery receives a promotion to the rank of specialist from Col. Lawrence Saul, TFF Deputy Commander CMO, right, and Sgt. Brian O'Connor. The rank being pinned on King belonged to his father, Lynn, who wore the rank during his service in Vietnam.

Private first class promoted to specialist with dad's rank during December ceremony

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL—When Pfc. Reginald King was pinned with the rank of specialist during a promotion ceremony here recently, he brought a piece of history and tradition with him.

"I feel like I am following in my dad's footsteps, and I also feel like I am doing him an honor," the 21-year-old fire support specialist with the 10th (Mountain) Division Artillery said, by showcasing his promotion with a smile.

The reason for the smile, however, wasn't due to the fact that he will be receiving a pay increase. It had to do with the fact that the Dade City, Fla., native was being pinned with the same rank that his father, Lynn (King), wore while serving in Vietnam.

"I know my dad is happy for me, and I am proud to wear the same rank that he wore while serving with the 101st Airborne Division. I am also proud of this promotion, because this is the first one that I have received while serving (in the Army)."

Another significant fact King pointed out was that his dad received his promotion to specialist in April 1970, the same month that he decided to join the Army in 2000.

"Joining the Army was something that I have wanted to do since I was little," King said. "The fact that my father served just added to my reasons for joining. I am really proud to be serving our country."

Col. Lawrence Saul, TFF Deputy Commander CMO, also a Vietnam Veteran, presided over the ceremony as several soldiers gathered inside the Falcon Room to watch their friend get promoted.

"This is a special moment for you," Saul said before pinning the insignia on a fellow 'Red Leg'. "And I am pleased to be able to share it with you. I hope this is the first of many promotions for you."

After pinning King, Saul, said it is personally rewarding to see an enlisted soldier promoted.

"I love to promote young enlisted soldiers, because I was one. Always refer to yourself as a specialist, not an E-4. We need specialists serving in the Army not paygrades," Saul told King.

Prior to doing morale pushups, King thanked Saul and everyone for making the moment more special for him.

"Even though my dad and mom (Barbara King) can't be here, I really appreciate Colonel Saul and my friends for taking time out of their schedules to be here for me," he said. "These moments are special, but this deployment means a lot to me as well. It is allowing me to grow as a soldier. I also have been able to take advantage of the college courses offered. I'm grateful for so many opportunities."

King said he hopes to one day be able to make the conversion from an enlisted soldier to officer via West Point.

"That is my goal. I really want to become an officer," he said attributing much of his desire to Saul. "I really respect the way he handles himself and the way he worked his way from being enlisted to an officer."

"(After this promotion) I know more is expected of me now, but I am ready to assume the responsibilities."

TFF Deputy Commander CMO

Don't count every day, make every day count



Col. Lawrence Saul

I can still vividly recall my first Short Timers calendar. I was a young PFC, serving my first assignment after AIT. I was assigned to HQs, AFCENT, in Brunssum, Holland. This was in the summer of 1968. While the war in Vietnam raged on, involving more than 400,000 U.S. Army soldiers, I was enjoying a relatively safe tour in Europe. Like most soldiers at that time, I was caught up in the habit of counting every day until discharge or rotation back to the States. At the time, my Short Timers Calendar

had about 900 days left.

Short Timers Calendars took on all shapes and forms. Most resembled the traditional calendar. Some were quite elaborate, taking different shapes and symbols. My favorite was in the shape of the airplane, the "Freedom Bird" that would fly you home at the end of your tour. The ritual of the Short Timers Calendar required the owner to mark off the passing of every day. Virtually every soldier could tell you exactly how many days he had left on his tour. This was all part of the culture of the times.

As my calendar approached the 450-day mark, I received a rude awakening. Due to the requirements of the war in Vietnam, my calendar went from 10-months to one week, over night. I had been levied to Vietnam as a replacement. To add insult to injury, I got no more than a 7-day notice. Within weeks, I was serving with a combat engineer battalion near Dak To, in the Central Highlands. Once again, I started

an all-new Short Timers Calendar. I started all over again, but this time the end date was only a year away. My counting down of each and every day marked my time in Vietnam. The accounting of each 24-hour block of time, wishing away every day as if I wanted time to fly by seems a waste, now. Marking off the days until I returned to the U.S. and civilian life had become a habit. I focused on the destination and not the journey. I failed to enjoy each day for what it was. Wishing away the days took away from the excitement of great experiences and opportunities.

My Short Timers Calendar was on constant public display – I wrote it in large print, on the back of my flak jacket. In this way, everyone walking behind me knew exactly when I was due to rotate home. Other, elaborate examples included calendars inked onto camouflaged helmet covers, fatigue shirts, etc. The message was always the same, so many days to DEROS. In this

way, we focused on the future, and not the here and now. As with my tour in Europe, my stay in Vietnam was curtailed and I left 60 days before my DEROS. I saw this as a God Send.

What is the bottom-line? What lesson did I learn from having a Short Timers calendar? Besides wishing away the time, I gained next to nothing. Today, with the benefit of wisdom that comes with age, I often find myself wishing I had focused more on enjoying every day, rather than counting it away. Now a days, I try to make every day count, and to not count every day. By making every day count, I hope to make a significant contribution to our mission and try to make a positive difference in someone's life. In that way, I feel as if I am making up for wasting time wishing away today for a tomorrow that is not assured to me, nor anyone else. I urge you to make every day count. Focus on how you can have an impact on someone else's life.

Toy Story...

Camp Bondsteel soldiers share goodwill and cheer with local children

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC, Kosovo— Tidings of comfort and joy were spread by Camp Bondsteel soldiers during a visit to a downtown daycare center here recently.

"We are ambassadors of goodwill and are glad to get a chance to help children out in the process," said First Sergeant Daniel S. Walker, Command Sergeant Major, 10th (Mountain Division's) Soldier Support Battalion (SSB).

Maj. Sam C. Fuson, commander, 10th SSB, noted that the boxed items that Walker and the other soldiers delivered to Ardhmeria Jone (Our Future) Daycare Center were sent from throughout the U.S.

"Without assistance from the folks back home, this wouldn't be possible. We really appreciate their kindness," he said, mentioning that Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin had sent most of the items being passed out during their Dec. 27th visit.

"We really appreciate what U.S. soldiers have and continue to do for the children," said Vezire Kryeziu, director of the daycare center that has an average of 238 students (ages 9-months to 6-years old) on a daily basis.



Spc. Aimee Almario, patient administration clerk with TFF Division Surgeon, shares a smile with her new friends, Eriona Blenishti (middle) and Rina Hamdin at Ardhmeria Jone (Our Future) Daycare.

"Since the soldiers have been coming here, they have assisted us in getting heat and improving conditions for our buildings. The children really enjoy playing with the soldiers," she said.

Fuson said the origin of the visits and improving conditions at the center

began during the previous rotation.

"When we took over the mission from rotation 3A, not only did we take over the day-to-day SSB operations of Task Force Falcon, but we assumed the opportunities of looking in on this center," Fuson said. "We are just glad to

continue what the previous rotation started. This trip is twofold, not only does it foster goodwill toward this community, but this is a morale booster for my soldiers."

Spc. Aimee Almario, patient administration clerk with TFF Division Surgeon, who tagged along for the morning trip said it was great to get away from work for a little while.

"This is my first trip off of Camp Bondsteel where I have interacted with children and I am really having a good time," the 23-year-old from Las Vegas said. "You really begin to feel lonely during this time of the year, but interacting with these children has really lifted my spirits. I am glad that we are doing something nice for them."

Spc. Valarie Arambulo, a personnel service specialist with the 10th SSB had her own feelings about her experiences with the students.

"This is great and so much fun," Arambulo said as she played on the floor with 5-year old Rina Hamdin. "I am glad that we are here and are helping out in some way. It's a good feeling to see children happy and knowing we had something to do with it. I feel like I made some new friends today."

"Charlie's Angels" of 10th LTF teach first aid basics to KPC

by Staff Sgt. Michael McCord
Press Section NCOIC

FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC, Kosovo— They call themselves "Charlie's Angels". It doesn't take a bevy of beautiful detective snoops to get to the bottom of the story here. Charlie Company's Ambulance team, 10th Logistics Task Force, (Forward Support Battalion) based in Camp Monteith, are demonstrating in true "American style" fashion, how the U.S. Army provides first aid and lifesaving steps. They are training their Kosovar counterparts, the KPC, (Kosovo Protection Corps).

Sporting a spray-painted outline of the three heroines from the recently released motion picture on a car tag in the front window of their field ambulance, this team of Florence Nightingales rock with motivation.

Working in the S-3 shop of Camp Bondsteel, Staff Sgt. Raman Kumar, 10th LTF had an idea. Kumar conducts planning and operations events for his section. "We arranged a meeting with all the officers and the commander of the KPC," said Kumar. "They told us what they wanted to train on, what they wanted to concentrate on," said Kumar.

Kumar arranged for Charlie Co.'s medic team to travel to the KPC's, 106th Logistics Detachment headquarters in Ferizaj and instruct their members how U.S. Army medical personnel perform first aid techniques.

The "Charlie" in the story is Sgt. 1st Class John Cassata, C CO., 1st of the 10th LTF's NCOIC and acting as

assistant CPR instructor on this day. "I used to do this, (teach combat medics) for a living," said Cassata. "What my platoon lacks in skill, they make up in motivation. Motivation comes from within. Skills can be taught, but you can't teach motivation. I believe this is the best ambulance platoon in the division, — if not in the Army. The motivation level is 200 percent all the time," Cassata said.

The 106th's building sits high on a hill overlooking Ferizaj and the KPC members were ready when the "angels" showed up. They were escorted to a classroom where 23 members of the local detachment sat waiting, warmed by a single, small potbellied stove.

The 106th's commander, Ilmi Hoshia welcomed the four medics and Kumar, and turned over the floor to them. As the medic team unpacked their teaching tools, including a "Resuscitation Annie" mannequin, Hoshia spoke, "We hope to get some theoretical training on techniques and also how to treat injuries such as broken legs or how to treat a wound," he said.

"The first thing we're going to cover today is an adult who is choking," said Sgt. Amy Marchant. She familiarized KPC members with proper procedures to remove a foreign object from a person. Assisting her were, Spc. Amber Roscoe-Diaz, Sgt. Kim McCray and Cassata, all medics with C Co.

The Kosovars peppered the instructors with questions. "We hope to learn CPR better than we ever have (Please see CHARLIE'S ANGELS, page 15)



Staff Sgt. Michael McCord/photo

Demonstrating proper technique on how to clear a blocked airway is Sgt. 1st Class John Cassata, right, C Co., TF Dragon Ambulance NCOIC and Spc. Amber Roscoe-Diaz.

Vitina base camp dedicated in honor of 10th Mountain Medal of Honor recipient

by **Sgt. Jamie Brown**
Senior Editor

CAMP MAGRATH—Neither the chilling winds nor the cold snow could dampen the warm feelings of pride in the soldiers here, at the official dedication ceremony of this Multi-National Brigade (E) base camp.

The encampment, formerly known as Camp Vitina, was renamed in honor of Pfc. John D. Magrath, a Medal of Honor recipient, on Dec. 17. Magrath, a member of the 10th Mountain Division, displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty near Castel d'Aiano, Italy in World War II. With his company pinned down by heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, Magrath volunteered to act as a scout, armed only with a rifle, charged headlong into withering fire, killing two Germans and wounding three orders to capture a machine gun. Carrying his enemy weapon across an open field through heavy fire, he neutralized two more machine gun nests. He then circled behind four other Germans, killing them with a burst, as they were firing on his company. Spotting another dangerous enemy position to his right, he knelt with the machine gun in his arms and exchanged fire with the Germans until he had killed two and wounded three. The enemy then poured increased mortar and artillery fire on the company's newly won position. Pfc. Magrath fearlessly volunteered again to brave the shelling in order to collect a report of casualties. Heroically carrying out this task, he made the supreme sacrifice—a climax to the valor and courage that are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service.

Camp Magrath can trace its origins to April of 2000, when the Vitina Machine Shop was set up to house the 1-187 Inf., and other elements. In February 2001, changing missions required facility upgrades, and a site for a new camp was selected just outside of the town of Vitina. On July 2, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Camp Vitina was held and site preparation began. In August, the task force increased the scope of the work, adding additional personnel requirements, bringing the base capacity to 600. On Nov. 10, the first soldiers from 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Reg. of the 10th Mountain Division (Task Force 1-32 Infantry "Chosin") arrived and moved directly onto Camp Magrath.

Lt. Col. Robert Nye, commander, TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" looked to the future when he spoke at the dedication ceremony.

"This dedication is also special for the Vitina municipality. Camp Magrath represents the hope and the call for civic duty, and selfless service by all citizens to continue to work together for a better Kosovo, now and in the

future," he said.

Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, Task Force Falcon Commander, spoke of the symbolic importance of the new base camp.

"This base camp is more than a set of new buildings; it is a clear symbol and a reminder of two things," he said. "It is a demonstration of the continued support and commitment of the United States of America to the people of Kosovo, and a clear of example of what can be accomplished when people work together. Over three hundred workers built this base camp, and now 139 workers earn their living here. These human beings demonstrated to you and themselves that they could work towards a common goal. They demonstrated that they could work together to earn a living, to raise their families, to build their future. That is the common bond that we all share. That is the common bond that we must encourage, that human beings working together without fear of violence will build this base camp and will build the future of Kosovo."

The soldiers and civilians who gathered to dedicate the new camp, shared a common bond, and several said that they felt that the ceremony was worthwhile.

"I thought it was a very good ceremony, I learned something new. I had not heard about Pfc. Magrath before," said Sgt. Clarence Roshell, TF 504th. "I was glad we got everybody together."

"I thought it was a great event," said Capt. Tyler Sunshine, Battalion Personnel Officer for TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin". "We had people here from a lot of different nations, we had local Albanian and Serbian representatives, we had all the workers who helped build this camp and the commanders of different units, and it was a great day today to dedicate the camp to a great American who gave his life in defense of his country."

One soldier who was present at the ceremony, Sgt. 1st Class Allan Williams, HHC, 1-32 Inf., looked at how the new camp would affect the soldiers stationed in this part of Kosovo.

"I think the setting was great," he said. "Being outside typifies the 10th Mountain Division being in the cold, wet and snow."

Everyday it seems like they're putting up something new like walkways, the flagpoles, the ceremony itself to improve the camp, and I think that in the future it's going to be a typical Army post, nice, and soldiers shouldn't have to go anywhere else, but right



Spc. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Col. Bryan K. Stephens, TFF Deputy Commander of Maneuver, left, and Lt. Col. Robert Nye, Commander, TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin", pose after the Dec. 17th dedication of Camp Magrath. TFF Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber (not pictured), presided during the ceremony. TFF Deputy Commander CMO, Col. Lawrence Saul, Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker, TFF Command Sergeant Major and Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Bellis, TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" Command Sergeant Major were also present during the dedication.

here. With the PX opening, the cappuccino bar and the gym, it's a great camp right here."

Fort Drum soldier spends holiday protecting MNB (E) post

by **Spc. Taylor Barbaree**
Editor

CAMP ABLE SENTRY—Newport News, Virginia and this encampment that enables the supplies to reach the camps of Task Force Falcon have something in common—Spc. Norman L. Coles.

But the comparison ends there, according to the signal support systems specialist with Service Battery, 3rd Battalion of the 6th Field Artillery (10th Mountain Division).

"It doesn't snow this much in Virginia," Coles said of his home state as he readied for eight hours of guard duty on Christmas Eve Day. "It's also not this cold. I feel like we brought this snow with us from Fort Drum."

Being in the cold, however, he says isn't as bad as the loneliness he is feeling while away from home during the holidays.

"Am I blue? You bet I am, but I know I am not the only one feeling this way. Am I proud to be here? Absolutely. I know that it was my choice to serve in the Army and being deployed is part of it. When you are a grown man you do what you have to do."

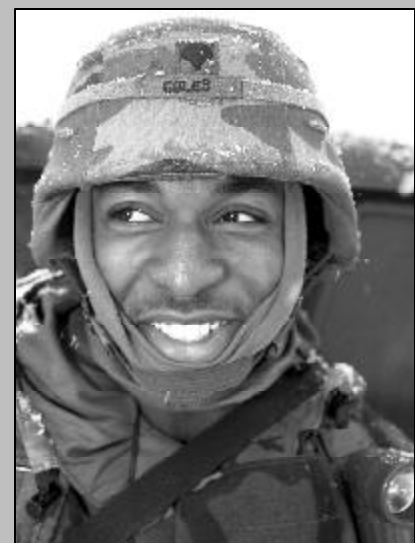
"We are all dealing with it the best way we can," said Coles' supervisor, Staff Sgt. Aaron Acla, who is the sergeant of the guard during the second shift that runs from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. daily. "They (our soldiers that guard CAS) know they have a job to do, and they just go out and do it."

Still Coles said being away from home is tough. "I either call my wife (Monique), write her or e-mail on a daily basis. Staying in touch definitely helps."

"December 28th is our anniversary, so not only am I missing Christmas, I am missing an important event that has happened in our lives. But, just knowing that she is proud of me for what I am doing here helps me," he said.

Before heading to the guard tower that he has been assigned to, the two-year Army veteran said time spent here has made him realize just what opportunities are ahead.

"I'm not going to say whether or not I am going to continue to serve (in the Army) once my time is up. But I think more than anything else, this whole experience has made me more motivated about earning a college degree. For that, I am grateful," he said.



Spc. Norman L. Coles

Spc. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Christmas is quiet at monastery near Gjilan

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

GAVIRILLO MONASTERY, Kosovo—Christmas Day passed quietly at this 500-year-old monastery tucked away in long, narrow valley covered in snow a few kilometers north of Gjilan.

A small out post sits near this monastery, manned by a few men from Company A, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

Their mission is part of the bigger picture here in Kosovo. When KFOR arrived in June 1999, an agreement was signed between UN and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to guard all Orthodox religious sites from destruction.

Now two-and-a-half years later, these men are up here fulfilling that agreement.



The Gavrillo Monastery is located near the town of Gjilan.

Spc. Bill Putnam/photo

Terrance Sampson, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, said.

Sampson remarked at one point on Christmas Eve that Kosovo is the farthest place away from home he'd ever thought he'd be—especially on Christmas.

Pvt. Clint Shade, an Ohio native, echoed those same thoughts.

"I never thought I'd be here," he said on Christmas Eve, "especially up here (at the Monastery)."

"My mom's holding Christmas until I get home," he said.

When he goes on block leave after this deployment, his mom is going to put up a tree and exchange the presents

They live in connexes, sleep on cots, pull guard duty and have professional development classes, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Harris, a squad leader in the company.

"But other than that, it can be pretty quiet," he said. Four Orthodox monks and a Bishop named Father Kirilo, live in a house on these grounds. The soldiers don't have much contact with them.

"The only time I've ever seen him is when it snowed real bad and he asked to have his car pushed out," Sgt.

he never received while in Kosovo, he explained.

"I told her: 'Mom, go ahead and have Christmas this year,' he said. "But she said she'd wait."

Christmas Day, the most festive time of the year back home, went quietly for these soldiers.

KFOR soldiers play Santa Claus to local schoolchildren

by Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writer

DAGANAJ, Kosovo—Merry Christmas. These two words roll off of the American tongue like rain falling off of a roof into a bucket. Every year on December 25, millions of people in America and around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by exchanging gifts, cards and holiday cheer. The soldiers in Kosovo are no exception to this, as was recently demonstrated in this town.

The soldiers from Task Force Dragon were in high spirits as they showed up at Ali Asllani School to share a nice dose of Christmas cheer by giving about 400 toys to the children there. This display of goodwill, featuring toys donated by AAFES, was one of many visits made recently to the newly remodeled school by the Task Force Dragon team.

Spearheading this crusade is 2nd Lt. Amy Wheeler, Task Force Dragon Chemical Officer.

"The purpose of the sponsorship is to get the school back to pre-war condition," said Wheeler. "This fosters good relations between KFOR and the community."

The KPC is an unarmed Kosovo



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Pfc. Michael Laduke and a local boy give a thumbs up during a recent visit to Ali Asllani school in Daganaj. The main purpose of the visit was to give out toys and a new basketball hoop to the school.

regional disaster relief organization similar to our FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

"We visit this school every other week. Sometimes we just come to play a game, but this time we brought gifts," said Wheeler.

The small contingency moved throughout the entire

school, spreading happiness everywhere it went. Each classroom was entered, and following a short speech by Lt. Col. William Larese, Task Force Dragon Commander, the soldiers did their thing.

Wheeler, who did not want the job of being in charge at first, now finds the work very rewarding, but not as much as the children that were visited that day.

Mirjeta Deda was one recipient of a new toy. Deda, an 8-year-old local girl, seemed enthused.

"You do a great thing," she said, beaming. "I am happy when I see American soldiers."

Alban Koxhaj, one of her fellow classmates, agreed.

"I'm very happy when I see the soldiers and I wave at them," he said. When asked if he liked his toy, the ten-year-old replied "Very much."

Koxhaj, also stated he wants to be a soldier when he grows up. That has something to do with the KFOR presence here.

Most Albanians are Muslim. They don't celebrate Christmas, and the children at the school probably had no idea why these soldiers picked this particular time to come by with toys.

The one thing everybody agreed on was that the kids were happy to see the troops, receive the toys, and to have KFOR in Kosovo to protect the peace.

And although the word 'Christmas' was never used in the school, the youngsters there certainly had a lot of holiday cheer.

The Best of Combat Camera:

This is a regular section of the Falcon Flier which features some of the best work of Combat Camera.

Special thanks to Combat Camera (55th Signal Company, Fort Meade, Md.) for submitting these photos.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

Cpl. Eric Linz, 27th Engineer Bn., drives a Deuce Caterpillar as it is slowly off-loaded.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

Soldiers from C Co., 27th Engineer Bn., carefully place wooden beams in order to free the Deuce Caterpillar from a steep embankment.



Sgt. Jeremy Cole ties the fuse for the C-4 explos the mountain near Camp Monteith, Kosovo on Dec. Guardian II. Cole is from A Co., 5th Engineer , Leonardwood, Mo.



Staff Sgt. John Benitez, 27th Engineer Bn., affixes preparation for its drive up the side oSpc. Michael



Pfc. Kelly Burkhardt/photo

for the C-4 explosives planted on the side of a water pipe as a part of Operation Joint Venture, 5th Engineer Battalion, stationed out of Fort



Spc. Michael Barranti/photo

After an intense snowfall, the 27th Engineer Bn. was called on to clear snow from the roads at an outpost near Kodra Fura on the Kosovo/FYROM border. The operation began on Dec. 20 and continued into the late afternoon on the following day. Led by Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Carl Kisely, a team of engineers used a SEE Truck and a Deuce Caterpillar Earthmover to clear the steep and narrow road that leads to the infantry outpost on the top of the hill. Cpl. Eric Linz, C Co., drives the earthmover up the narrow mountain trail. After running into a large slush filled pothole, he drops the blade on the Deuce and proceeds to push snow and dirt into the hole in an attempt to fill the deep gully.



Spc. Michael Barranti/photo

ineer Bn., affixes the tire chains on the SEE Truck in the snow. Spc. Michael Barranti/photo of a mountain.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

Spc. Nicholas Vanoverbeke helps to secure the SEE Truck on a flatbed trailer.

Out with the old, in with the new...

EURO becomes legal tender with new year

by Capt. David L. Gardner
10th Soldier Support Battalion

On Jan. 1, 2002, the Euro will become legal tender in 12 countries in the European Union. Fifty billion new coins and 14.5 billion new banknotes will replace the currencies of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain. The new currency will circulate with the old for two months. After the end of February 2002 the old currencies will not long serve as legal tender. An estimated 300 million people will conduct all their business with the new Euro currency.

The coins range in value from 1 cent to 2 Euros (dollars) and have one uniform front with 12 different backs; one for each participating country. The banknotes range from 5 to 500 Euros, which come in seven different dimensions and appearances; one for each value. For example: the five Euro dimensions are 120mm x 62mm, while the 500 Euro dimensions are 160mm x 82mm. Note: the bills increase in size in relation to value.

Beginning Jan. 8, 2002, the finance offices at Camps Able Sentry, Bondsteel, and Monteith will issue the Euro in place of Deutsche Marks. Also on this date, the finance offices will begin exchanging Deutsche Marks for Euros for all members of the KFOR team.

The conversion rate for Deutsche Marks (DM) is (as of Dec. 30th) 1.95583, which means that one Euro is equal to 1.95583 Deutsche Marks, or one DM is equal to .51129 Euro. The conversion rate for the DM is fixed and will remain in effect throughout the turn-in period. The dates for DM turn-in are Jan. 8 -Feb. 15, 2002 for KFOR personnel. After Feb. 15, KFOR base camps will not longer exchange or use DMs. The conversion rate for the U.S. Dollar versus the Euro will fluctuate daily.

It is not necessary to convert currencies from countries outside the EU to the Euro. If you have further questions concerning the Euro conversion, please contact me at 781-4491.

LES soon to have new appearance

by Capt. David L. Gardner
10th Soldier Support Battalion

The Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) will undergo changes in January 2002. The LES will have new areas to reflect the members' involvement in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). These blocks are located directly above the "REMARKS" area of the LES. The 4 entitlement categories are: Base Pay, Special Pay, Incentive Pay and Bonus Pay. There will be two new blocks for each of 4 entitlement categories. The blocks that contain the word "RATE" will reflect the percentage rate of the monthly entitlement the service

member elects to contribute. The blocks that contain the word "CURRENT" will reflect the dollar amount that has been designated by the service member. This option has not been finalized yet. When this option is activated, the service member will be allowed to select a specific dollar value instead of a percentage. There will be new blocks on the LES to advise the member of their TSP deductions, amount deferred and amounts exempt. The "TSP YTD (year-to-date) DEDUCTIONS" block is simply what has been contributed for the service member to date. The "DEFERRED" block will contain the amount of TSP YTD contributions that are Tax Deferred. This amount has a yearly

maximum. Once the amount for that year is reached, the system will generate a stop transaction and a remark will be created with a stop date. The "EX-EMPT" block will contain the amount of TSP YTD contributions that are tax exempt. The maximum has been set at \$40,000 yearly. Whenever TSP contributions and loan payments taken, a remark will be reflected in the "Deductions" block of the LES. Whenever a member is refunded TSP loan payment and any TSP contribution, a remark of the amount will be displayed in the "Entitlements" block of the LES.

Contact the Finance Office for more information on the new LES.

Task Force commander gets library card

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

On a routine pass through the city of Gjilan, Lt. Col. Audy Snodgrass, battalion commander for TF 1-30, decided to make a stop at the local library. Little did he know that the brief stop would lead to such an important event as him getting a library card.

"I decided to stop by simply because I have always been enamored by libraries. I have a masters in English and taught English composition at West Point, so I do have a love for books," said Snodgrass.

Snodgrass was surprised to hear he was the first KFOR soldier ever to enter the library, but nonetheless, he was warmly welcomed and invited back to be presented a library card on Dec. 18.



Lt. Col. Audy Snodgrass, the commander of TF 1-30, receives his library card from Mr. Shefket Osmoni, the library director of Gjilan. Snodgrass is the first KFOR soldier to request and receive a library card from the library in Gjilan.

Spc. Molly Jones/photo

gives you a bright future. That is one of the things that KFOR wants to do for the people of Kosovo."

The library, being neutral ground, is a great place for the people of Kosovo to come and work together, regardless of their ethnic background. Education is nondiscriminatory and can be achieved by all who reach for it.

"The libraries of the world are the greatest examples of toleration, they are the one place where

your race or ethnic background does not matter," said Snodgrass. There are books here in all languages for all people. The building is filled with great stories and information for everyone," he said. Upon receiving his library card, Snodgrass was offered the card for free, but refused to accept. He wanted to pay for the cards just as everyone else had, after all the money is put to making the library better for the people of Kosovo, and Snodgrass was very pleased to

*10th SSB- Camp Bondsteel Finance Office Building 1330 B (Admin. Alley)

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*10th SSB- Camp Monteith Finance Office Striker Hall Building

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 12 - 3 p.m.

*10th SSB- Camp Able Sentry Finance Office Building No. 2

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Eight fire safety tip's from your TFF Fire Department

1. Follow cooking directions on food packages.
2. When food is cooked, stir and let sit for a few minutes. This can prevent burns to the lips and mouth.
3. Popcorn can burn easily in a microwave. Follow package directions carefully.
4. Do not cook food in metal containers. It may cause a fire.
5. If a fire starts, close the door and unplug the cord.
6. WATCH OUT FOR MICROWAVE BURNS. Microwave ovens stay cool, but what's in them can be very hot. Use a potholder when removing food from a microwave! Remove lids with caution to prevent steam burns, and test the temperature of food before eating it.
7. Microwaves tend to heat unevenly. Never put foil or other metals in a microwave.
8. Close the door on microwave fires. If anything catches fire in your microwave, opening the door will provide oxygen to the fire. Leave the door shut and turn the microwave off.

give to such a worthy cause.

Task Force Dragon hits the mark in gunnery exercise



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

A AH64A Apache helicopter leaves Ramnjan-Falcon 4 range after participating in a continuation gunnery exercise on Dec. 28. The exercise gave helicopter pilots a chance to measure their ability in using their weapons systems.

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

ZLATRE, Kosovo – The beast hung in the air, hovering, as if suspended by some magical force. He stared down his prey, and emitted a loud blast, sending a gift of destruction, leaving nothing, but smoke and a small crater where his foe had once stood.

The AH64A Apache helicopter then left Ramnjan-Falcon 4 range, having successfully completed a continuation gunnery exercise.

Members of Task Force Dragon participated in the exercise on Dec. 27 and 28. According to Capt. J.B. Bowles, the AH64A Apache liaison officer for Task Force Dragon, The helicopters from Task Force Dragon that participated in the exercise included 2 UH60 Blackhawks, 6 AH64A Apaches and 4 OH58D Kiowa Warriors. The rounds used in the exercise included: 3000 30 MM rounds, 3200 .50cal rounds, 1000 7.62 rounds and 80 2.75in Rockets. The pilots tested their skill at hitting targets with these rounds.

Bowles said the exercise lets pilots measure their ability to use their weapons. "What we do out here is we allow the aviators to familiarize them-

selves once again with the weapons systems," he said. "The pilots are able to maintain their weapons systems proficiency by coming out and firing at the targets. We will do this once every two months. We score each target based on a criteria out of our field manuals and we write down what each pilot's performance was, and we give them a "Go" or a "No Go" on the engagement. Today was absolutely successful."

According to Bowles the exercise is useful to the pilots and the equipment they use.

"The pilots are able to benefit in two ways: they get to maintain their proficiency, and they get to go over their switchology in the cockpit," he said. "Switchology means to engage a target using their weapons, you have to practice continually on maneuvering the cockpit switches to engage the weapons. It also benefits in exercising the weapons systems themselves, to make sure that they fire accurately. The pilot is based in the back seat, and his purpose is to fly the aircraft. The front seater, or the co-pilot gunner, his primary purpose is to engage the weapons system."

Besides being useful, the exercise is also fun for the pilots.

"The pilots absolutely enjoy this," he said.

Several pilots agreed that the exercise was

useful, and fun.

"This keeps our skills up in using the aircraft with the weapons system," said Chief Warrant Officer Dale Eggert, an Apache pilot from B Co. 3rd Bn., 229th Avn. (Fort Bragg, N.C.) You go out there and practice all the time, but it's totally different when you have the weapons on board. It went real well. We had great target effect. The guns were very accurate. The rockets are loud, it's a fun thing to do."

"Basically we went out there to exercise the weapons systems, as a familiarization," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Condie, another Apache pilot from B Co. 3rd Bn., 229th Avn. "The benefit of a practical exercise like this is it let's you stay sharp on your weapons systems, and stay sharp on your skills as a tactical helicopter pilot. Every chance we get to fire weapons, we take advantage of it and do it. We were very successful."

According to Condie, the opportunity to practice using real weapons is something he relishes.

"It's what we do for a living," he said. "Every chance we have to go out and pull the triggers, and exercise the weapons systems on the aircraft, it's what we get paid to do and we enjoy doing it."

Clinic brings Albanians, Serbs together for greater good

by Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writer

DRAJKOVCE, KOSOVO – Throughout history, opposing forces have come together in times of crisis to combat their common enemies. Warring factions living in the same country have combined their strengths to fight invaders from foreign lands. Feuding neighbors have come together as brothers when their town hall was being consumed in flames. And most recently, in the mountainous town of Drajkovce, a small contingency from two recently warring groups, the Albanians and the Serbians, have united in an effort to fight their common nemesis. In this case, however, the opposing force they are battling is not an Army or militia; it is sickness.

The players in this scenario are none other than the staff of a tiny clinic located in the heart of this small

village, which happens to be situated in the most inopportune place; at the edge of opposing enclaves. This clinic, like most others in Kosovo, is paid for and run by UNMIK. It is open three days a week and each day representatives from a different KFOR country treat patients there. Like other clinics it serves everybody, regardless of who they are. The amazing thing about this place is not its location or its people; rather that it is open at all.

For just a few weeks ago, this little building was cold and empty. Only recently has it opened its doors to patients, and only then after some negotiating and waiting. It was a long struggle for the people involved.

1st Lt. Brad Tibbetts, Task Force Med Falcon Med Civil Affairs Officer (Ft. Drum) was one of those who were instrumental in breathing new life into this facility. He gives a brief history of what happened.

"This clinic was renovated by the Caritas Polska

(Polish Red Cross)," said Tibbetts. "It was renovated with the stipulation that we have multi-ethnic (Albanian and Serbian) staff and it would care for all patients regardless of ethnicity."

"The reason this particular location was chosen is because it is on an ethnic fault line. That is to say, fifty yards one way you will find a Serbian enclave, and 100 yards the other way you will find an Albanian one."

This ill-fated combination sounds like a recipe for disaster. As fate would have it though, the endeavor has thus far been anything but disastrous. According to Tibbetts, the patients are being treated and there have been no incidents.

This is not surprising, however, since a Polish security station is sitting next door. Still, not everything is coming up roses here.

(Please see CLINIC, page 12)

Mascal exercise gives soldiers realistic training

by **Spc. Bill Putnam**
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH—The scene inside the motor pool appeared to be disorganized chaos "Casualties" screamed in pain. Medics "evaluated" them and treated what injuries they could. Litter bearers teams carried the treated to ambulances. The ambulances drove the casualties to the Troop Medical Clinic here.

Down at the TMC, the scene represented orchestrated chaos. Casualties were separated into three categories and then treated accordingly. Some were taken to the gym next door and treated. Others were taken inside the TMC's trauma room. Others were separated from these two groups.

This was the first Mass Casualty rehearsal that Co. C, 10th Logistical Task Force has conducted in Kosovo.

The scenario was simple, said Capt. Jeff Alden, the doctor for Task Force 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

A convoy was returning to a motor pool. Something caused an explosion and wounded soldiers, mortally or non-mortally, he explained before the scenario's start.

The scenario today could happen at any time, anywhere, said Sgt. Amy Marchant, a medic in the company said. So they practice these scenarios here and back home in Fort Drum, N.Y.

Marchant and C Co. were the first medics to respond from the TMC. They expected five or six casualties, but estimated there were 20 after a quick survey of the scene.

They quickly went to work. Most of the injuries they had were lung injuries, she said. They happen when smoke is inhaled in an enclosed area.

But their main job as first-responders was to stop major bleeding, check air and breathing,



A "casualty" from the 10th Logistical Task Force on Camp Monteith reacts to his friends "injuries." The 10th LTF held a Mass Casualty rehearsal the morning of Dec. 21.

and get them in an ambulance, Marchant said.

There are four levels of a triage. Immediate patients need to be seen first, delayed have cuts or bruises and don't need to be seen as quickly. Priority can be seen after immediate, and expected patients are expected to die.

Triaging shouldn't take more than five minutes and patient care is generally limited to two minutes per patient, she said.

To treat lung injuries, oxygen is usually given to the victims.

Occasionally a walking casualty pleaded in his delirium for help. He wanted drugs to kill his pain or he wanted his friend looked at. His job as a walking casualty was to try and interrupt Marchant and the other responders from giving the immediate patients care. It didn't work and he was eventually given "valium" for his pain.

Down at the TMC, the casualties were treated and separated according to the level the responders gave them.

Law said he saw one of the patients that had smoke inhalation.

Dealing with these injuries quickly is important because it only takes four minutes before the brain dies without oxygen, said Law.

"The nice thing about this camp is that it's such a small place, where unlike Camp Bondsteel where everything is seemingly miles apart, places like the PX, dining facility, barracks, and the gym are close together," said Law.

That makes notifying medical personal a lot easier, he added.

The scene inside the TMC was orchestrated chaos, said Law. But that's part of the casualty-treatment process.

"To the neutral observer it looks like people going in every single direction but that has already been carefully rehearsed," said Law,

"who is going to take care of the immediate (casualties), who is moving the litters."

With just over four months left in theatre, Law said there's plenty of time to run these scenarios.

"We've laid the ground work now... and the next one can only get better and more realistic," Law said.

(CLINIC continued from page 11)

Tibbetts goes on to tell how, after great strides were taken, a small group of individuals were able to convince the nurses to show up for work.

When negotiations stalled concerning the participation of local national physicians to staff the clinic, however, KFOR stepped in with a workable yet temporary solution; the nurses open the place up, and KFOR provides the doctors.

This is but a Band-aid on the problem, but it does the job while negotiations are under way to try to convince the rest of the staff to come in. At the heart of the matter, of course, is the animosity between the two groups that has been around for a long, long time. And while there is no hope in the immediate future for a KFOR-free resolution

to the dilemma, the dialog continues.

Meanwhile, the staff that decided to join in the fun were cheerful and very professional, and yet were unwilling to be interviewed or photographed, for fear that their neighbors might see them actually mingling with persons on the wrong team.

Despite these obstacles, the first steps have been taken to offer an atmosphere in which Albanians and Serbs can be treated by Albanians and Serbs. This road, like many others before it and surely after it, is paved with many potholes and barricades that must be dodged or overcome before the end is reached. The vehicles that will be utilized will be patience and diplomacy and a perhaps a little persuasion, but hopefully in the

end these two battling forces will come to terms with each other in the interest of making a better life for those who make up the present and future of their province.

For the people of Drakjovce, and Kosovo, there is really no other solution, especially if they are going to care for their most valuable asset, their children. And, if the people in this volatile strip of land can achieve this seemingly impossible goal, maybe the whole of the people in this ravaged territory can take an example from them and learn to live, care for, and eventually love one another.

It may take a while, but history teaches us that stranger things have happened.

All is quiet...

Soldiers patrol in the still of night in Kosovo

by **Spc. Bill Putnam**
Staff Writer

DOBRACNI, Kosovo—With very few exceptions, it was a routine patrol. The town was quiet, houses were dark, very few people were out, and with the exception of one crazy dog, the usual packs of dogs were asleep.

In the dead of night on Dec. 14, as snow fell down and caused the roads to ice over and sound to dampen, the patrol from C Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, found nothing out of the ordinary except for a man driving home, and locals leaving a café.

The snow wasn't going to stop or affect their mission, said Staff Sgt. Ian Trower, a squad leader in the company and patrol leader.

After their initial drive through town, Trower told his driver Pfc. Aaron Gifford to stop, and set up a hasty checkpoint.

Their wait was rewarded a short time later when they stopped a small yellow car. Spc. William Ades, Trower, and Pfc. Adam Sands searched the car quickly. They usually do checkpoints like this one to keep the locals on their toes, Trower said.

"A guy like this driving around this early in the morning in this weather, it seems a little weird," Trower explained in the darkness. They found nothing in the car and the man drove off.

"Look down there," Ades said. A group of men were walking down the road from their local café. Cpl. John Marangelli shined the spot light on them.

"Doesn't the café close at 11 p.m.?" Ades asked the group of soldiers.



Spc. Bill Putnam/photo

Spc. William Ades, an infantryman in C Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, searches a car during a patrol of Dobracani.

In response Trower asked where the men were going. The men explained they were heading home and they continued walking into the darkness.

Inside his vehicle, Sands commented he knew he'd eventually deploy with the Army, Bosnia or anywhere, it didn't matter to him.

"I'll probably end up in Korea

soon too," he said.

Just after the car drove away and the men walked into the darkness, they started to patrol through town again. As they left, a dog, one soldier called him crazy, showed up.

"Hey that's the dog from the hill," Pfc. Aaron Gifford said. The dog ran alongside the humvee and followed the patrol

everywhere they went in town.

He stayed even when they said hello to a local arcade owner.

"Crazy dog," Trower said.

But the crazy dog wasn't there when the most routine statement of them all was said by Trower: "lets roll home."

Important information about filing taxes while deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian

Special to the Falcon Flier

Happy New Year's! As always, we end the holiday season with gifts of W2's, 1040's, and other sometimes confusing documents. Rest assured that beneficial legislation exists to help deployed soldiers throughout the upcoming tax season.

Taxes need not interfere with your mission. There will be ample time to file when we redeploy. The federal government imposed an automatic extension for deployed soldiers (and spouses of those deployed if filing jointly) during the tax season. This extension gives you an additional 285 days after redeployment to file. To invoke this extension, write "KOSOVO" on the back of your tax form when you do file. Special Tax Power of Attorneys, prepared on a walk-in basis, allow your spouse to file on your behalf. Married soldiers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this option as soon as possible.

To receive tax assistance, you must first clear your unit's Tax Assistance Officer (UTO). The UTO's primary function is to ensure that the soldier understands the filing process and determines if the soldier has all the necessary documentation for filing their taxes at the Tax Assistance Center. If the information is incomplete or inaccurate, the

soldier can face a \$500 penalty for filing a frivolous return.

All soldiers must provide the following documents: W-2s from all employers within the year, IRS forms they've received, account and routing numbers from their bank (i.e. a voided check), and copies of all dependents social security cards. Soldiers filing taxes that are married, separated, or real estate owners require more documentation. Additional tax information can be obtained from your Unit Tax Officer, the Legal Assistance Office, or at www.irs.gov.

The Tax Center/ Legal Assistance Office, located in Bldg 1340A (Admin Alley, next to Finance), will open for tax assistance on 4 February 2002. Appointments are available Mon.-Sat. 1000-1630 hours, and Sun. 1300-1630 hours by calling 781-5071.

"Our men and women serving in the Kosovo area should be focused on one thing and one thing only- keeping themselves safe from harm and achieving our mission. While our troops are under fire, they certainly don't need to be doing battle with the IRS as well."

— (Former) U.S. Rep. Bill Archer (R-Texas)
Ways and Means Committee



Show stopper...

The Arizona Cardinal Cheerleaders entertained and visited with U.S. troops in the TFF area of operations during the month of December. The tour, sponsored by MWR and USO, concluded after a two-hour Dec. 21st show held at the Camp Bondsteel Theater. Pictured above is one of the Cardinal Cheerleaders (photo and caption by Spc. Taylor Barbaree/TFF PAO).

A closer look at Christmas traditions in Kosovo

by Drita Perezic
TFF Cultural Advisor

Among the various populations of Kosovo there are two groups of Christians that celebrate Christmas, however on different days. The Albanians of Kosovo that belong to the Roman Catholic Church celebrate Christmas following the same calendar we do. And so on December 24th Midnight Mass will be held at the Albanian Roman Catholic Churches throughout the province, followed by Christmas Mass on the 25th traditionally held at 11 am. Christmas is a time for family and friends to be together, not necessarily for the exchange of gifts. Large family feasts are held and family and friends enjoy the company of each other.

The Serbians of Kosovo are exclusively Orthodox Christians. Their church is autocephalous, which means it is an independent Serbian Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar. The date of Christmas Eve then falls on the 6th and Christmas day on the 7th of January. There are various Christmas traditions for the Serbs that require that the 3 preceding

Sundays be marked with special events.

Just as with the Albanian Catholics of Kosovo, the Serbs of Kosovo will take the time to share with family and close friends. Again, while we may traditionally think of Christmas as a time for gift giving, the greatest gift for the people of Kosovo that celebrate Christmas is to be among family and friends.

The majority of Kosovo's population is made up of Albanians that are secular Muslims. Their Holy Month of fasting, Ramadan, has recently come to an end. The Muslims of Kosovo, which by the way are not only Albanian—there are Turks, and Roma, and Bosnians that share the same religion—recognize the importance of this holiday for their Christian neighbors. In the past it was not odd to see an Albanian Muslim visiting with his Serb Orthodox neighbor to wish him and his family a merry Christmas, or to see an Albanian Roman Catholic visit with his Muslim Turk neighbor and wish him well for the month of Ramadan. Much of that has changed given the war that has torn the people of Kosovo

apart.

The Albanian Christians and Moslems do not find themselves at odds and will be more than happy to celebrate the various religious holidays together. There are even some Albanian Kosovar families that have both Muslim and Catholic members. Inter-ethnic relations among the Serbs and the Albanians are very fractured right now. We probably will not see too many Albanians, regardless as to whether Muslim or Roman Catholic, visiting with the Serbs or vice versa. It is very disheartening, but the reality in the Kosovo of today.

Regardless of the ethnic group or the religion of the locals, they will be more than happy to wish you a merry Christmas, and express general well wishes for the holiday season. We as Americans also belong to different religions. Let us take this holiday season we share together as members of KFOR to say special prayer for the people of Kosovo that they may one day be able to celebrate together again as human beings, not ethnic groups.

'Legends of Hardwood' come to Monteith during December



Spc. Bill Putnam/photo

Artis Gilmore drives to the hoop during the Classics Of The Hardwood basketball game on Dec. 11 at Camp Monteith. Gilmore and Webb beat the LT's Team 58-51.

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH—Two NBA legends took advantage of a "significant opportunity" to play a game of basketball at the Field House here on Dec. 11.

Artis Gilmore and Anthony "Spudd" Webb teamed up with four soldiers to play the winning team of the MWR sponsored "Classics Of The Hardwood" tournament held Dec. 8-11, 2001.

In a fun, social game of half-court basketball, their team came from behind to beat the LT's Team 58-51.

"It was a great, great experience," Spc. Carlos

Jenkins, a player on the LT's Team said after the game. "It was great to rate your game on how good you're playing."

What brought Gilmore and Webb here was something that Gilmore described was a "unique opportunity to visit military people not only in the U.S. but we'll also be visiting a number of bases throughout Europe."

"I guess it's really significant to have an opportunity to come and visit people in such a foreign location, like here. Everyone's been wonderful; you guys are very special and I'm certainly happy that I had the opportunity to come and spend some time with all of you special people."

Webb and Gilmore have traveled all over Europe for this tour, stopping in Sarajevo before arriving here. All that traveling can be overwhelming, said Gilmore.

"Gosh, you kind of lose track. Probably eight or ten stops in the Classics tour this year," Gilmore said.

"You get a chance to go to places and spend not an awful lot of time but some locations more time than others. But mostly we had an opportunity to shake hands... say hello and emphasize how much we appreciate what they're doing, what all of you guys are doing over here."

"That sometimes is not echoed enough from back home. And we're here to put a little bit of emphasis on that," he said.

Reaction to Gilmore's participation has been positive. Younger soldiers know who Webb but may not be as familiar with Gilmore have logged onto the Internet to find out about Gilmore's professional career.

"The young kids now are simply intelligent," he said. "They were able to determine a number of things that I accomplished during the years."

"Spudd's only been out of the game a very short time and I was very fortunate to have a chance to play for 17 years," he said.

Gilmore's career started in the old American Basketball Association with the Kentucky Colonels. After five years there he moved on to the NBA's Chicago Bulls before he retired in 1987 with the Boston Celtics.

"It was an extraordinary span," he said of his career.

The talent level of the LT's Team was better than Gilmore expected. "We socialized and had fun playing around, of course the rules are different, and the guys are really into and they play serious."

"Of course, I have not been in condition to play on a kind of serious scale like that. But it was enjoyable and I certainly enjoyed it. It was great to have that kind of competitive mentality on the basketball court and I know they carry that over to the work place."

Playing basketball with NBA stars is something the soldiers on both teams will never forget.

"Playing with Spudd Webb and Artis Gilmore rates as one of the top moments in my military career," Jenkins said.

For Gilmore the experience is different.

"The one thing that I will be able to take home is how pleased these guys are. That certainly makes me feel wonderfully," he said.

Even though these tours require a certain amount of work to stay in shape Gilmore said he enjoys it. The NBA legend also noted, when asked about the possibility of returning to an area such as Kosovo.

"Yes, absolutely, if there's an opportunity to go and travel and come visit guys in this type of location then I will more than happy to do it."

Gilmore also exchanged e-mail addresses with a number of the soldiers and plans on staying in contact with them.

IF YOU ARE DRIVING WITHOUT A SEATBELT, YOU MIGHT BECOME AIRBORNE WITHOUT A PARACHUTE!



SEATBELTS - WEAR THEM IN GOOD HEALTH

Chaplain's Corner

Letting God back in your life

by Chaplain (Capt.) Bret Gilmore
TFF Chaplain

In the movie *The Doctor*, William Hurt portrays an arrogant, self-absorbed surgeon who is the best at what he does. However, he's cold and cynical, only concerned about himself. The unimaginable happens when he is diagnosed with cancer and must become the patient, rather than the in-control doctor. The movie is about his journey back into the reality that life is bigger than himself. One particular conversation in the drama is especially captivating. He is talking to another cancer patient about his relationship, or lack thereof, with his wife. As he motions with his hand, he says, "I've pushed her away for so long. I don't know how to let her in my life anymore."

Whoever wrote, "Fiction mimics life," could not have been more right. Very often, we find ourselves pushing God away, thinking that we don't need or want His help or love. We do this, of course, only until something happens which causes us to realize just how badly we need His presence in our lives. When that happens, we may find that, "we've pushed Him away for so long, we don't know how to let Him back in." When that time comes, what do we do?

King David pondered that question in Psalm 15, many years ago, when he asked,

"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?" The king wanted to know how he could live day by day with

God's presence.

The holy hill is Mount Zion, where the tabernacle was placed. The tabernacle was a tent where God was said to have dwelled and which represented His presence with the people. So David's question really goes to asking what kind of lifestyle pleases God.

As quickly as he asked the question, he answered it in the remaining verses of the Psalm: He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without usury and does not accept

a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

As we look at what these verses tell us about letting God back in our lives, it should be understood that Christianity is not so performance-based that if we do certain things, God will respond in the way we want. That would not only be a works-based religion, but would also be manipulating God. Rather, the characteristics discussed in these verses are the evidence, or the working out, of the faith that is within us as Believers.

The first characteristic of a person who lives in God's presence is a blameless walk. In Biblical times, a person's walk referred to the pattern of her life. Throughout Scripture there are many references to people "walking" with or without God. Probably the most remembered is Enoch who is found in Genesis. He

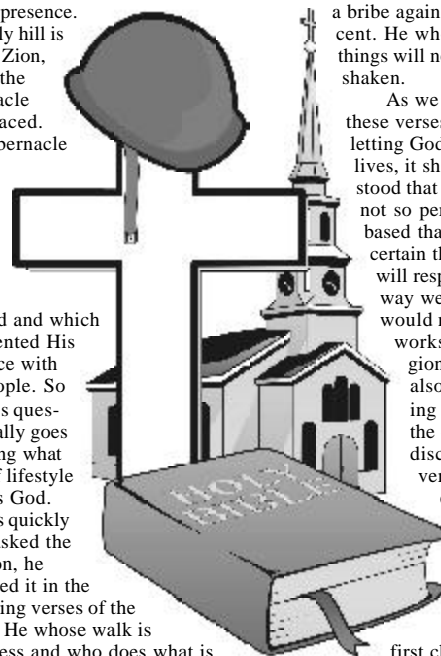
"walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." This "walk" is not perfection, but is a lifestyle that demonstrates our devotion to God.

Characteristic number two is a beneficial word. Often, what we say about others, says quite a bit about us. The person who enjoys God's presence finds a way to encourage others who may be struggling and refuses to speak badly or spread rumors. Remember the Psalmist, who prayed, "May the words of my mouth be pleasing in your sight, O Lord."

Thirdly, a bold witness is what God is looking for from His children. This statement seems to imply that we should have nothing to do with unbelievers. However, just the opposite is true. We are not to be ashamed of the Gospel, allowing everyone around us to see what Christ has done in and through us.

Finally, benevolent ways are evidence that the Spirit of God is active in our lives. If anything displeases God, it is injustice. We ought to be a people who love justice and mercy and work toward reconciliation and peace. When others see us loving and helping the less fortunate, they see God working in us.

We are given the promise that when we live these characteristics, we build strong lives and characters. The difficult times will come, that's true. However, nothing can overcome us because it is Him living through us.



CBS Worship Service

Peacekeepers Chapel (North)

Sunday

8 a.m., Episcopal/Lutheran
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass
11 a.m., Collective Protestant
12:30 p.m., Gospel Service

Monday

7 p.m., Women's and Single Soldiers' Bible studies

Tuesday

7 p.m., Catholic RCIA

Wednesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass
6:30 p.m., Prayer Service
7 p.m., Bible Studies

Thursday

7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

Friday

12 p.m., Muslim Prayer Service
7 p.m., Gospel Joy Night Service

Saturday

6:30 p.m., Stay Faithful Marriage Bible Study

South Chapel

Sunday

8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass
9:30 a.m., Collective Protestant
11 a.m., LDS Service
4 p.m., Gospel Service

Monday

7 p.m., Collective Protestant Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday

7 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday

7 p.m., Bible Study

Friday

8 p.m., Jewish

Saturday

11 a.m., Seventh Day Adventist Service
7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

CMT Worship Service

Sunday

9 - 10:30 a.m., General Protestant Service
11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gospel Service
1:30 - 2:30 p.m., LDS Worship
7 - 8 p.m., Catholic Mass

Monday

7 p.m., Chapel Movie Night w/ Discussion

Tuesday

7 - 9 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice

Wednesday

6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice
7:30 - 9 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday

6 - 7 p.m., General Protestant Practice
7 - 8 p.m., General Protestant Bible Study
8 - 9 p.m., General Protestant Worship

Friday

12 - 1 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Worship

Sector Worship

Protestant

Saturday

2 p.m., Debelde
4 p.m., Binac Church

Sunday

Camp Magrath, 10 a.m.
Zintjine Church, 11:30 a.m.
Klokot, 2 p.m.
Mogila, 3:30 p.m.
Vrbovac Church, 4:30 p.m.
Vrbovac, 7 p.m.

Latter Day Saints

Sunday

Camp Magrath, 2 p.m.

Roman Catholic

Monday

Klokot, 2 p.m.
Vrbovac, 4 p.m.
Camp Magrath, 7 p.m.

Other Activities

Sunday

Movie Night- 11 p.m.

Tuesday

Bible Study, 8 p.m.

(CHARLIE'S ANGELS continued from page 4)

before, " said Gezim Hasni, KPC member.

Later in the day KPC members

were demonstrated CPR methods using the mannequins. Each member was given the opportunity to perform

the sequence of steps on the life size dummies.

This was not a one-time event.

"We're in the beginning stage of training and we hope to get to sustain this training before our rotation is over," said Kumar.

Hoopin it up...

KFOR Americans play basketball international style

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC, Kosovo - "Basketball is my favorite sport. I love the way they dribble up and down the court." These words were said by rapper Kurtis Blow, and the sentiment seems to have crossed international boundaries, reaching as far as Kosovo. This was evident on Dec. 22 as a team made up of American KFOR soldiers played a local club team here in a basketball tournament.

The Americans took part in the Astrit Bytyci invitational tournament. The tournament was held in honor of a basketball player from Ferizaj/Urosevac who was killed in the war. The Americans had to scramble to get a team to participate in the tournament.

"Some of the Albanians that work on Bondsteel invited us to get a team together, to incorporate goodwill," said Sgt. 1st Class George Gaines, HHC 3-6 Field Artillery Bn., the team's assistant coach. "Sgt. Major Corbitt stopped one of the games in the gym last week, and told everybody he wanted some players. We had four days of three-hour practices; we just picked players from there."

Because America is the homeland of basketball, the local players appeared to be excited about testing their skills against the KFOR team.

"It's good to get off of Bondsteel to play basketball, but it's even better to play against foreign nationals. They've received us really well."

***— Capt. Lawrence Williams,
27th Eng. Bn.***

"They're really excited to play the Americans, for them it's a big deal to play against Americans, and they feel special when they're out on the court with us," said Cpt. Lawrence Williams, 27th Eng. Bn., a forward/center on the team. "I think they have something to prove."

And prove something they did. The

Americans who had lost by eight to a team from Prizren the night before, couldn't hold on to a second half lead, and lost to the team from Ferizaj, 82-80. To use an American phrase, the teams from Kosovo "had game." The members of the KFOR agreed that international basketball wasn't a cakewalk.

"It's different for some of the guys, they've never played international ball before. The level is pretty good," said Gaines.

"I think international basketball has some differences, they are more fundamentally sound," said Williams. "You can tell they've practiced together a lot."

"It got pretty tough at the end; we got real stiff," said Staff Sgt. Eric Johnson, commanding general's enlisted aide. "We were in control of the game, for the most part, until the last two or three minutes. They put on a press. They started pressing us real hard for the ball, as the clock was going down. They got real scrappy. We were trying to stall and let the clock run out, and they came back. The crowd got into the game at the end. They really got into the game."



Sgt. Al Smalls, 490th Civil Affairs Bn., shoots a jump shot over a defender from a team from Ferizaj. American KFOR soldiers participated in a local basketball tournament in Ferizaj on Dec. 21 and 22.

Despite losing two tough games, the members of the American KFOR team were glad to have participated in the tournament.

"It feels great," said Sgt. Rodney Thompson, B. Co. 9th Psyops Bn. "I'm happy to be here."

"It was all in fun," said Johnson. "They were very gracious winners. As a matter of fact, they came and posed for pictures with us after the game. They were real nice."

"It's good to get off of Bondsteel to play basketball, but it's even better to play against foreign nationals. They've received us really well," said Williams. "Just being here with them is fun. They're definitely enjoying it. They've looked

forward to each of the games, and to get a chance to play. Everybody here loves basketball, so it's fun for everybody. We got a chance to spend a lot of time together (with the other teams). We even got a chance to talk to some of the players on the other teams, so that was good too."

According to Johnson, the KFOR American team plans to continue playing.

"I think now that we know what to expect we'll do better in the future," he said. "Hopefully the team will be good, we're talking now about playing in a tournament in Germany. We're going to take it as far as we can."

But as the members of team know basketball is about more than just winning games, especially here in Kosovo.

"Basketball is a good way to promote goodwill," said Johnson.

"I think it does a lot to foster the relations between the U.S. and the people of Kosovo," said Williams. "It helps out a lot. It shows that we're here and we're a team, and we can all get along together."



Sgt. Jason Walters, Task Force Med Falcon V, dribbles the ball around a defender.